and 2 Union Territories participated in the scheme in the Rabi 1997-98 season.

COS is under implementation in Orissa State. During the year 1997-98, the crops covered in the State are paddy, groundnut in Kharif and paddy, ground-nut and mustard in rabi season.

Compensation under the Crop Insurance us worked out on the basis of yield data made available by the concerned State at the end of the crop season.

For 1997-98, complete yield data for both the crop seasons is not yet made available, therefore an assessment for the total claims for the year 1997-98 cannot be made, Compensation for 1998-99 cannot be worked out as the crop seasonfs) actually have not commenced.

Fall in Rice Production in Orissa

162. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)whether production of rice in Orissa is not satisfactory;

(b)if so, the reasions therefor;

(c)the reasons for continuous decrease in production of rice;

(d)whether any new strategy has been prepared to increase rice production in Orissa; and

(e)if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The average production of rice in Orissa has increased from 47.44 lakh tonnes during the triennium ending 1986-87 to 56.52 lakh tonnes during the triennium ending 1996-97. Though there is increasing trend in production of rice is Orissa, it has not increased to the desired extent and has fluctuated year to year depending on the rainfall behaviour. Some of the major constraint impending the production of rice in Orissa are; dependence of the larger crop areas on monsoon, less coverage under location specific high yielding varieties, low input use, water logging, occurence of drought, floods and cyclones, etc.

(d) and (e) For increasing the production of rice the strategy proposed to be adopted by the State includes enhancing the seed replacement rate of rice, creation of additional irrigation potential, promoting the use of fertiliers, encouraging the mechanisation in rice cultivation etc. Besides, to supplement the efforts of the State Government in increasing the production and productivity of rice the Government of India is also implementing a centrally sponsored scheme "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System's Area's (ICDP-Rice)" in Orissa.

Loss of Orange Crops in Maharashtra

163. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that crop of oranges in Nagpur in Maharashtra were almost destroyed due to untimely rains during winters of 1997-98;

(b)If so, the details thereof;

(c)whether Government have provided any relief or compensation to the organge growers of Nagpur division; and

(d)if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPALV (a) No report has been received from the Governmciii of Maharashtra in this regard.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Suicides Committed by Farmers in Karnataka

164. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJ ARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of suicides committed by farmers in Karnataka due to indebtedness; if so, the number of farmers who committed suicides during the last four months;